ABSTRACT

probe hermetically sealed within the vessel, the probe having a sealing end and at least a portion of the probe constituting a first electrode, the sealing end of the probe being encased within a glass material, a second electrode spaced apart from said first electrode in a manner such that the first and second electrode together form part of a capacitor, a mechanism for supplying an electrical current from an applied electrical current source to the capacitor, and a mechanism for monitoring capacitance of the capacitor.